

To Whom It May Concern,

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. I must say that I am not only shocked, but also very dismayed and disillusioned by the prospect that this blatantly partisan action may proceed unchecked by the FCC-- the very governmental body that exists for the purpose of regulating this kind of activity.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for their bottom line and less of what we need for the people's democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we must strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

I urge you to prohibit Sinclair from forcing their affiliates to show the anti-John Kerry propaganda film (especially considering their intention to promote it as a "news" story." If the FCC is not willing to take this action, at the very least, Sinclair should be required to give equal air time to a film critical of George Bush and the policies of his administration.

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Leslie Carstensen Floren, Pharm.D.